



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 1, 2005

### **S. 517**

### **Weather Modification Research and Development Policy Act of 2005**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation on November 17, 2005*

S. 517 would establish within the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) a new Weather Modification Subcommittee and a Weather Modification Research Advisory Board. Weather modification is the general term that refers to any human attempt to alter the weather. The subcommittee would consist of representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and would be responsible for coordinating a national research program on weather modification. The advisory board would consist of nine members with weather expertise from outside the federal government, appointed by the Director of OSTP to advise the work of the subcommittee.

Within 180 days of enactment, the legislation would require the Weather Modification Subcommittee to report to the Congress goals and priorities for federal weather modification research over the next 10 years. In addition, the subcommittee would annually report on weather modification research achievements, progress, budgets, and recommendations. (This legislation would not specifically authorize any such research.) The advisory board would work with the subcommittee to make recommendations on weather modification issues.

Based on information from OSTP, CBO expects that the new subcommittee and advisory board would require a small increase in staff and overall administrative expenses to coordinate a national research program on weather modification. We estimate that implementing S. 517 would cost about \$1 million annually, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 517 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act; any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.